ZERO-SUM COMICS

inGrid イングリッド 1

酒巻 行里

エロ

一迅社

9784758057837

ISBN978-4-7580-5783-7

C9979 ¥552E

雑誌 50671-28

定価：本体552円+税

一迅社

1929979005528

異を唱えることは**罪**である——。
背を向けることは**罪**である——。
誓いを破ることは**罪**である——。
傲慢に屈することは**罪**である——。

すべては、唯一の聖女の教え。

神殿騎士たちは悪魔と呼ばれる者達と戦う。
国を殺す病を打ち破るために…。

i n G r i d

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1

in Grid

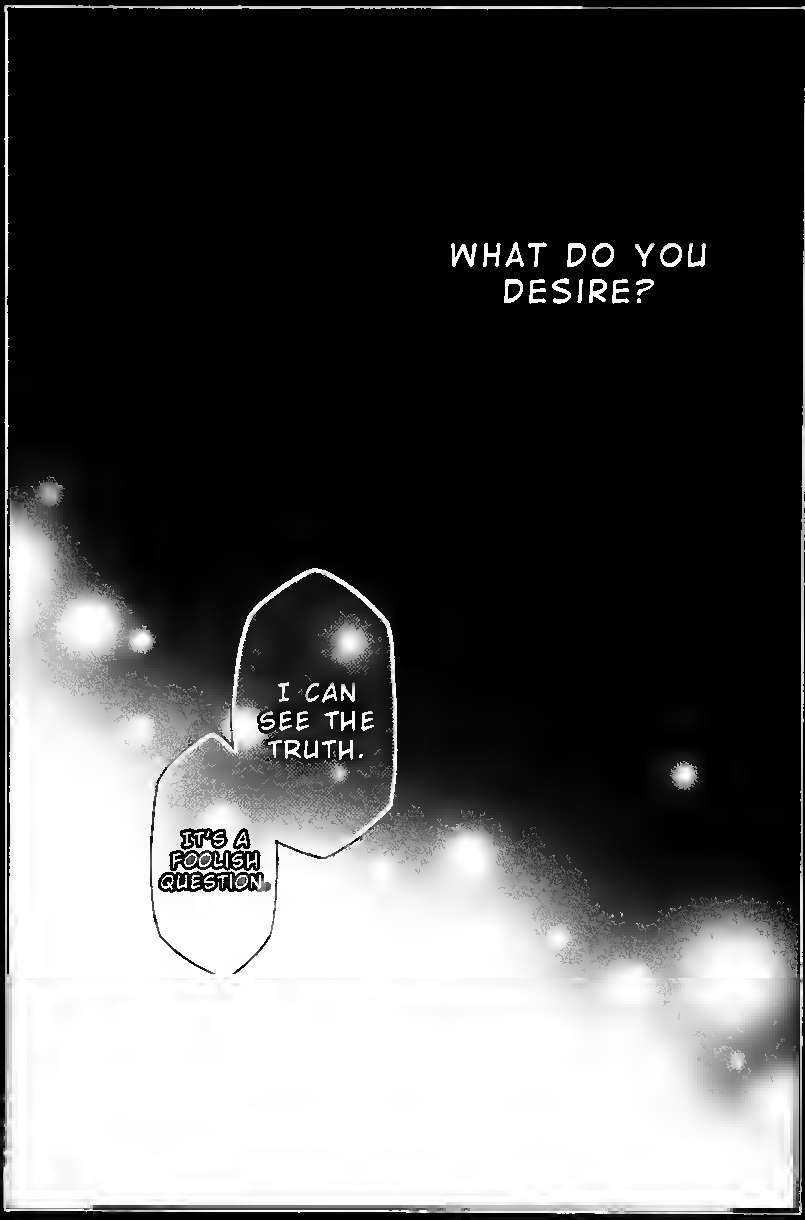
inGrid

インクリッド

酒巻 行里
YUKISATO SAKAMAKI

The whispers of a
demon can be heard.
Genuinely and
without hesitation.

Chapter 1


WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?
I CAN SEE THE TRUTH.
IT'S A FOOLISH QUESTION.

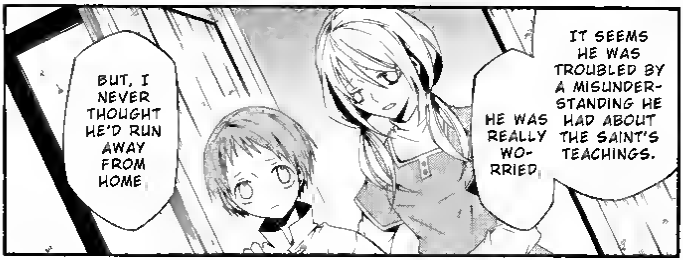
IF YOUR MAJESTY WISHES FOR THE COUNTRY TO PROSPER
THEN I WILL SUPPORT THE SPIRIT OF THE NATION.
I AGREE COMP-LETELY, YOUR MA-JESTY.
LET ME TAKE CARE OF THE THRONE.
SO THAT YOU CAN-

"ONE ARM SO YOU CAN HELP"
"ONE HEART SO YOU CAN PROTECT THE PEOPLE WHO YOU LOVE"
"YOURSELF AND OTHERS"
"YOUR WORDS WHICH CAN SAVE THOSE WITH NO POWER."
ARE YOU LISTENING?
IT'S BAD TO JUST FORGET IT, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU HAVE ONE ARM OR TWO.
THE SAINT HAS ALREADY TAUGHT THIS.
YOU, WHO HAS ONLY ONE ARM, WON'T JUST BE FORSAKEN.
WE WILL ALSO PROPERLY PROTECT YOU!
THE SAINT SAYS THAT "MUTUAL AID IS VERY IMPORTANT."

YEAH...!
I'M OKAY NOW...
THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED,
I WILL PROTECT MY MOTHER AND SISTER WITH THIS
ARM.
ERIC!!
BAM

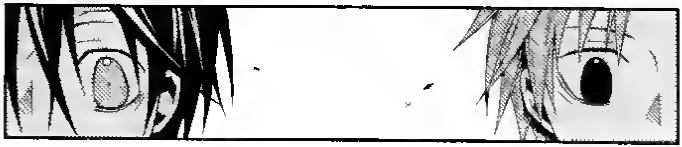
IDIOT! WHERE DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GOING!?
SISTER ...!
DON'T MAKE ME WORRY LIKE THAT! IDIOT!
MOTHER WAS REALLY WORRIED TOO! ERIC, YOU IDIOT!!
I'M SORRY!
How many times did she call him an idiot?
Uh... 10 times?
BUT,
I'M FINE!
ERIC...
I'VE HEARD THE TEACHINGS CLEARLY.
SO, EVEN I, WITH ONE ARM, AM GOING TO BE OKAY.

THANK YOU
TEMPLE KNIGHTS ...
FOR LOOKING OUT FOR MY LITTLE BROTHER


BUT, I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D RUN AWAY FROM HOME
HE WAS REALLY WORRIED
IT SEEMS HE WAS TROUBLED BY A MISUNDERSTANDING HE HAD ABOUT THE SAINT'S TEACHINGS.

"IT IS THE LIGHT."
"FOR A WANDERING HEART"

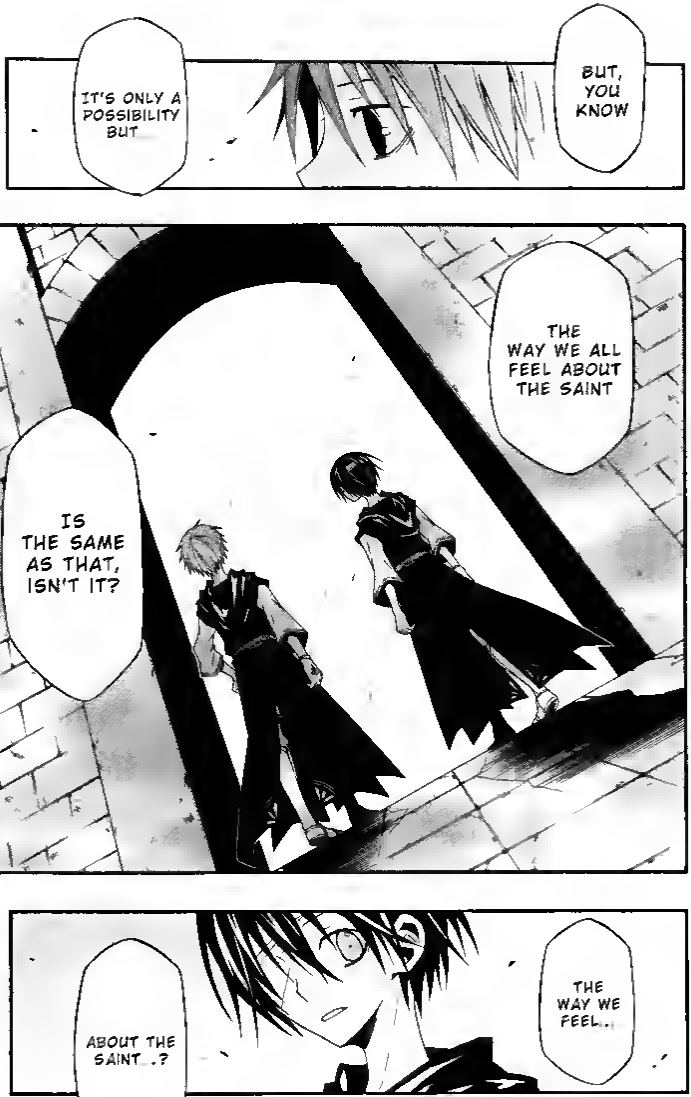
WE
ARE ONLY DOING OUR DUTY TO FOLLOW THE SAINT'S TEACHINGS.
MOTHER!
ERIC...!
RATTLE
I'M SO RELIEVED ...!



LOOKING FOR A LOST CAT,
GOING ON ERR-ANDS,
SEARCHING FOR A RUN AWAY
WE ONLY GOT ROUTINE TASKS TODAY AS WELL.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TEMPLE KNIGHTS
IN THE END WE'RE STILL JUST APPREN-TICES, HUH?
BUT, AFTER WE GIVE OUR REPORT TODAY
WE MIGHT GET A RISE IN STATUS THIS TIME, RIGHT?

THIS TIME...
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT,
MURRAY?
"TRUST IN THE BLESS-INGS FROM GOD."
... RIGHT?
...WELL, SINCE WE HELPED THAT KID EARLIER UNDER-STAND THE TEAC-HINGS,
IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT, HUH?
... COME TO THINK OF IT,
THAT KID...

SINCE I ONLY HAVE ONE ARM I'M NOT GOING TO BE PROTECTED BY THE TEACHINGS!
MY MOTHER AND SISTER CAN'T PROTECT ME EITHER ...!!
HEY... WEN.
I WONDER IF HIS "FAMILY" BEING UNABLE TO PROTECT HIM WAS A PAINFUL THING FOR HIM?
I... DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF "FAMILY"...
NOT GONNA BE MUCH HELP ASKING ME, RIGHT?
SINCE ALL OF US TEMPLE KNIGHTS ARE ORPHANS.
HA HA
I GUESS SO...
BUT...


IT'S ONLY A POSSIBILITY BUT...
BUT, YOU KNOW
THE WAY WE ALL FEEL ABOUT THE SAINT
IS THE SAME AS THAT, ISN'T IT?
THE WAY WE FEEL...
ABOUT THE SAINT...?

YEAH...
IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT FEELING
THEN EVEN WE CAN UNDERSTAND, I THINK..

I'M TEMPLE KNIGHT, MURRAY.
I'M TEMPLE KNIGHT, WEN.
SHOW ME YOUR PASS.
OKAY.
PASSAGE IS APPROVED.
CREAK

WELL THEN...
AFTER THIS WE HAVE TO REPORT...
I
TAP

THE
SAINT...

...HEY, MURRAY...
JUST NOW, AS I EXPECTED...
SHE TOOK NOTICE OF YOU, DIDN'T SHE?
Yep Yep
WHAT OF IT?
WHAT ... ?
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T REALIZED IT YET?
Come on..

HAH?
THAT'S JUST YOUR IMAGI-NATION, WEN.
CARES ABOUT YOU A WHOLE LOT, RIGHT?
THE SAINT

AND SHE'S ALWAYS DOING THAT ONLY TOWARDS YOU!
NO, YOU'RE WRONG!
EVEN EARLIER SHE SMILED ONLY AT YOU, MURRAY.

IT'S PROBABLY
DUMBFOUNDED
THAT SO?
IS...
YES, IT'S TRUE!
HEH..
WHY DOES THE SAINT DO SO ONLY TOWARDS ME..?
Why are you so unaware!? It pisses me off!! WHY!?

I SEE...
AH.
SHE LIKES ME!!
SURELY
THE SAINT
THAT'S NOT IT...!
SMILE
EVEN IF YOU DON'T HIDE IT I WON'T GO SPREADING RUMORS!
NOT EVEN A LITTLE.
... THAT'S THE WILD IDEA YOU WERE HAVING, WASN'T IT?
GRIN
GRIN
STOP IT ALREADY
Yep... I can understand why you'd went to hide it
YOU'D HAVE TO BE PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT HAVING THOSE TYPES OF THOUGHTS TOWARDS THE SAINT!

IT'S ONLY THAT...
THE SAINT IS WORRIED ABOUT MY EYE...
EHH
WHAT IS IT!? TELL ME, TELL ME!
MURRAY'S WILD IDEAS ARE WORRISOME!

PRESIDENT, ACTUALLY MURRAY WAS...
YEAH, GO ON?
SERIOUS
SHUT UP, WEN! AND LUCIAN DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!!
YOU JUST SAID YOU WOULDN'T SPREAD RUMORS!
And more than that I didn't have any wild ideas!!
SAINT!!
BUSTLE
HUH ...?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
SWISH
UH...

SAINT, ARE YOU OKAY?
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT, LUCIAN..
I ONLY..
GOT A LITTLE DIZZY.
THE SAINT..
IS WORN OUT, AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, HUH?

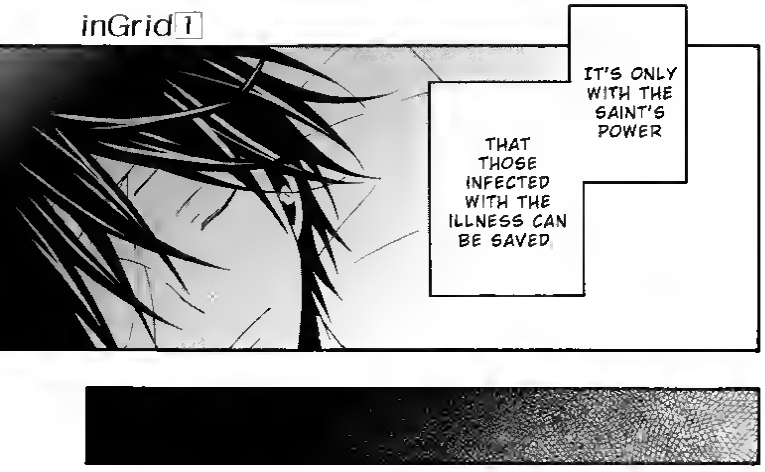
DURING THIS TIME AFTER THE KING'S DEATH WHEN THE ERA IS CHANGING
THE SAINT CAME TO CURE THE ILLNESS OF THIS COUNTRY ALL ALONE.
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TREAT THE BLOODY CORPSE DISEASE IS THE SAINT...
ALTHOUGH NO ONE ELSE HAS THAT SKILL I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER BODY.
.....

..THOUGH THE SAINT IS EXHAUSTING HERSELF USING HER SKILLS
THOSE GUYS AT THE PALACE CAN'T GET RID OF OR CURE THE BLOODY CORPSE DISEASE...
IN REALITY THE COUNTRY IS STILL PROSPERING RIGHT?
BUT, THAT'S ALL THANKS TO THE SAINT COMING AND HEALING THE ILLNESS. ISN'T IT!?
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ROYALTY THEY'RE COMPLETELY USELESS...!
DON'T SAY THAT.
.....
I FEEL THE SAME WAY!

IT'LL SOON BE A NEW MOON, HUH...?
... PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM THE ILLNESS ARE GOING TO COME OUT AGAIN...
DEFINITELY, EVEN WE WON'T BE EXCLUDED
THE SAINT'S BURDEN IS GOING TO GET HEAVIER AGAIN TOO...
THE SAINT DOESN'T THINK OF IT AS A "BURDEN" THOUGH, RIGHT?
BESIDES,

THAT'S WHAT THE TEMPLE KNIGHTS ARE HERE FOR, RIGHT?
SLAM
WE'RE STILL JUST APPRENTICES,
BUT THE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHERS ARE FIGHTING WITH THE SOURCE OF THE ILLNESS, AREN'T THEY?
..WE HAVE TO HURRY UP AND HELP THEM OUT?
IF WE DO THAT, THEN WE TOO CAN BECOME THE SAINT'S STRENGTH.
YEAH...
THE BLOODY CORPSE DISEASE

WITHOUT FAIL THE SICK PEOPLE WILL COME OUT.
WHEN IT APPROACHES A NEW MOON
THOSE AFFLICTED WITH THE ILLNESS ARE STAINED IN BLOOD
DUE TO THE IMPURITY THEY ARE RACKED WITH PAIN
AND BEFORE LONG THEY DIE
THE ONLY ONE WITH A METHOD TO HEAL THEM IS THE SAINT...


IT'S ONLY WITH THE SAINT'S POWER
THAT THOSE INFECTED WITH THE ILLNESS CAN BE SAVED

TAP
TAP
HM...?
TAP
CREAK

GOOD MORNING, MURRAY!
IT'S A REFRESHING MORNING, ISN'T IT!?
Dazzling
WHAT THE... LUCIAN?
AH, GOOD MORNI-
TCH,
IT'S STILL BEFORE DAWN, ISN'T IT!?
SHOCK
THE ONLY ONE REFRE-SHED IS YOU!!
WE HAVE A DAY OFF TODAY SO DON'T COME WAKING US UP!
HA HA HA HA
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP?
HELL YEAH I AM!!
LOOK, EVEN WEN IS STILL SLEEPING!
SNORE

EVEN THOUGH I CAME HERE TO DELIVER A SPECIAL NOTICE..
YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP?
WELL, YOU WON'T REGRET IT LATER THEN, WILL YOU?
A-H
AH, JEEZ, I GET IT ALREADY. SPIT IT OUT!!

.....
SMILE

WEN! WAKE UP!!
MURRAY, WE HAVE A DAY OFF TOMORROW, DON'T WE..?
URGH...
WAKE UP!
WE GOT A RISE IN STATUS!
WE'RE NOT APPRE-NTICES ANYMORE!
HUH...!?
WIDEN
STARED

WHA...!?
GRIN
GRIN
BEAM
SMILE

SHHHH
SUPPRESSION OF THE "DEMONS"...
SPLASH

THAT'S
THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE TEMPLE KNIGHTS ...
IF I CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS SAFELY I'LL BE OF SOME USE TO THE SAINT...
BUT, "DEMONS"
OI, NEWBIE.

YOU'RE PROBABLY
THAT MURRAY?
I KNOW ABOUT THE RIGHT EYE'
YOU CAN TRY TO HIDE IT, BUT I'VE GOT IT FIGURED OUT.
IT'S PROOF THAT YOU'VE MADE A CONTRACT WITH A DEMON!
I'VE DONE NO SUCH THING!!
.....
WELL, AM I RIGHT?

AH, THIS IS SERIOUSLY THE WORST !!
DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T SAY IT THOUGH! IT'S DREADFUL !!
WITH A DEMON!? GIVE ME A BREAK!!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH THIS GUY!?
IF YOU HAVE COMPLAINS TAKE IT UP WITH THE PRESIDENT
WE WERE ASSIGNED SQUADS BY HIM
AH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU-
ARE FAVORED BY THE SAINT AND THE PRESIDENT, HUH?
BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
IT'S BECAUSE THOSE TWO THINK YOU'RE WEIRD.
THEY'RE JUST KEEPING THEIR EYES ON YOU!

.....

HEY,
SHOULDN'T WE DROP THE USELESS CHATTER AND GO ON AHEAD QUICKLY!?
SENPAI!

SOME GUY THAT WAS JUST AN APPRENTICE UNTIL EARLIER IS PLANNING TO ORDER ME AROUND!?
STOP IT, URUBAS
IT'S UNSIGHTLY TO HAVE ARGUMENTS BREAKING OUT AMONG ALLIES IN THE COURSE OF A MISSION

CHE.
Serves you right
...HOW-EVER,

I CERTAINLY DON'T PLAN TO WORK TOGETHER
WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS MADE A CONTRACT WITH A DEMON.
!!

YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A FIGHT SINCE EARLIER!
INSTEAD WE'RE THE ONES THAT WILL REFUSE TO GO WITH YOU!
IS THAT SO?
WELL THEN, WE'LL LEAVE THIS PLACE IN YOUR BRAVE HANDS
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT YOUR ABILITIES
THE AMOUNT OF ENEMIES DIVIDED BETWEEN THE SQUAD WOULD BE SMALL
WE THREE ARE PLANNING TO GO MERGE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SQUAD
SINCE THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A LOT OF ENEMIES OVER THERE

THEN YOU SHOULD LET US KNOW, RIGHT?
OR, IF YOU ACTUALLY NEED OUR HELP
WHO WOULD!?
.....
DON'T FAIL.
SHHHH
...WE'VE FINALLY OFFICIALLY BECAME TEMPLE KNIGHTS.
WE DEFINITELY WON'T FAIL NOW...!

EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT AROUND
WE'RE GOING TO DEFEAT THE DEMONS!!
THE "DEMONS" ...?
.....
WITH THIS EVERYONE IS HERE, RIGHT?

NOW THEN,
FROM HERE YOU'LL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS
AND THEN YOU'LL GO TOWARDS THE HIDING PLACE OF "THOSE PEOPLE".

THAT'S ALL
"MAY GOD BLESS YOU."

THE DETAILS WILL BE GIVEN OUT BY EACH SQUAD'S COMMANDING OFFICER.
JITTERY
JITTERY
FOLLOW HIS DIRECTIONS AND AS USUAL ACT QUICKLY.

LUCIAN
WHO ARE "THOSE PEOPLE"?
OH, IT'S YOU GUYS' FIRST TIME.
IT'S OUR MISSION TO EXTERMINATE "THOSE PEOPLE" LYING CONCEALED IN THE CITY.
I THINK IT'S MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN THE ROUTINE TASKS OF AN APPRENTICE
BUT, THEY ARE DANGEROUS SO DON'T BE CARELESS!
IN THE CITY!?
WE'VE WENT THERE A THOUSAND TIMES BUT SUCH DANGEROUS THINGS WERE LURKING AROUND .!?
WE NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THAT'S BECAUSE MANY OF THEM ARE AFRAID AND HIDE FROM US.

"THOSE PEOPLE" HAVE DENIED THE TEACHINGS OF THE SAINT.
THEY VIEW THE SAINT WITH HOSTILITY...
TO THINK THAT THERE'S PEOPLE WHO VIEW THE SAINT IN THAT MANNER..
NO WAY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
MURRAY.
I NEVER SAID ONE WORD ABOUT "THOSE PEOPLE" BEING HUMANS.

THE SOURCE OF THE ILLNESS...
THE SAINT'S ENEMIES
THEY ARE "DEMONS".
NO,
THEY ARE THE SOURCE OF THE BLOODY CORPSE DISEASE...
HUH...?
THEY AREN'T... HUMAN?

DEMONS.
SHHHHHHH
SHHHHHHH

I THINK THIS IS ONLY AN ABANDONED HOUSE...
WILL THERE REALLY BE DEMONS IN HERE...?
HE TOLD YOU TO NOT GET CARELESS
CREAK
WEN.
IN THERE...?
RUSTLE
.....
.....EH?
THOSE PEOPLE.

...WHY ARE YOU HERE...!?
AND WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YOUR HOUSE IS IN A DIFFERENT DISTRICT, RIGHT?
...
SOLFIENE
!!
WEN,
I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT'S GOING ON BUT THERE ISN'T A DEMON HERE
SIGH
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S OKAY?
WHAT DID YOU SEE...?
CREAK
MURRAY!

THAT'S...
!
A WOUND-
ON THE BELIEVER'S MARK...?
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...?
I GET IT.
WHAT EXACTLY..
DO YOU GET ..?

YOU'VE ERASED THE MARK OF THE BELIEVER...!!
THEY ARE DEMONS!
THESE ARE THE ENEMIES WE MUST EXTERMINATE ...

SFX: SHANK
MURRAY!! DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THEM!!
DON'T SAY STRANGE THINGS, WEN!
DEMONS...?
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT THESE PEOPLE ARE...
LUCIAN SAID THAT THE DEMONS WEREN'T HUMAN.

HAHAHA!!
FU...
FUFU-FU...
AHAooo HAHooo!!

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